

MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009
LOUISIANA CATFISH PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD MEETING
BROWN'S LANDING
120 BROWNS LANDING ROAD
WINNSBORO, LA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sam Haring called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBER

Board member Dianna Haring was not present; therefore, she was not sworn in.

ROLL CALL

Louisiana Catfish Promotion and Research Board Director Rebecca Riecke called the roll.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The presence of a quorum was declared by Chairman Haring.

MEMBERS PRESENT

BILL CHEEK
RUSTY GAUDE
SAM HARING
PAT SCOTT
STEVIE STEPHENS
REBECCA RIECKE (COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE)

MEMBERS ABSENT

RUSTY FREELAND
DIANNA HARING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion made by Stevie Stephens and second by Rusty Gaude to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ron Harrell from Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation informed the Board of the amount in its checking account as of August 31, which was \$22,403.74. No hard copy financial report was distributed. Mr. Harrell advised the Board that the bank began charging monthly bank fees last month for the checking account. He said that they could move the money to an interest-bearing account, such as a CD.

A motion made by Stevie Stephens and second by Bill Cheek to move \$20,000 from the checking account into a six-month CD. The motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Board members discussed whether they would like to request that the Commissioner fill the vacancy for the at-large member position or leave it open. They talked about the fact that several catfish farmers are getting out of the business and it would be hard to find someone to fill the vacancy.

A motion made by Bill Cheek and second by Pat Scott to leave the at-large member position open. The motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE CATFISH INDUSTRY

Chairman Haring called on Rebecca Riecke to give an update on the Aquaculture Grant Program. Mrs. Riecke informed the Board that 13 catfish farmers received the grant, and the total amount distributed to catfish farmers was \$781,000.

Board members discussed the status of the catfish industry including catfish prices, the number of catfish farmers left and downsizing in the industry. Chairman Haring stated that the main problems for the industry are the high price of feed, low cost of fish and imported fish.

Members discussed the status of the Board and how often they should meet. The Board decided to have the next meeting at the legislative catfish fry in 2010 unless any business arises in the interim.

Mrs. Riecke advised the Board that they would need to vote on how to pay for the lunch for this meeting.

A motion made by Stevie Stephens and second by Bill Cheek to allow Pat Scott to pay for lunch and the Board to reimburse him. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

No further comments were made. A motion made by Bill Cheek and second by Sam Haring to adjourn. The motion carried.